

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming device comprising:

an image carrying member that carries a visible image formed of a developer;

5 an intermediate transfer member to which the visible image is transferred from the image carrying member;

 a capturing member that moves to contact with and separate from the intermediate transfer member, the capturing member in contact with the intermediate transfer member capturing a residual developer on the intermediate transfer member; and

 a removing member that removes the captured residual developer from the capturing member, wherein

 the capturing member is rotatable while contacting the removing member whether the capturing member is in contact with the intermediate transfer member or is separated from the intermediate transfer member.

2. The image forming device according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 an exposing member that exposes the image carrying member to light based on image data at an exposing position so as to form a latent image on the image carrying member;

 a plurality of developing members, each corresponding to a different color and developing the latent image with a developer into a visible image on the image carrying member

at a developing position downstream from the exposing position in a first direction;

a primary transfer member that transfers the visible image to the intermediate transfer member at a primary transfer position downstream from the developing position in the first direction; and

a secondary transfer member that transfers the visible image from the intermediate transfer member to a recording medium at a secondary transfer position downstream from the primary transfer position in a second direction;

wherein the image carrying member moves in the first direction, while the intermediate transfer member moves in the second direction while in contact with the image carrying member.

3. The image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the capturing member is formed of a conducting material.

4. The image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the removing member has a removing roller that contacts the capturing member.

5. The image forming device according to claim 4, further comprising a blade that contacts the removing roller.

6. The image forming device according to claim 5, wherein the removing roller is formed of a conducting material.

7. The image forming device according to claim 1,
wherein the developer is a polymerized toner.

8. The image forming device according to claim 1,
wherein the capturing member moves to separate from the
5 intermediate transfer member while keeps rotating.

9. The image forming device according to claim 1,
further comprising a controlling unit that controls the
capturing member to rotate in a state separated from the
intermediate transfer member in at least such cases as when
10 the power is turned ON, when recovering from a sleep mode,
after printing a prescribed number of sheets, and after
performing an initialization operation when recovering from
an error.

10. An image forming device comprising:
15 an image carrying member that carries a visible image
formed of a developer;

an intermediate transfer member to which the visible
image is transferred from the image carrying member;

a removing unit including a capturing member that
20 captures a residual developer from the intermediate transfer
member, a removing member that removes the captured residual
developer from the capturing member, and a developer
collecting unit that collects the residual developer removed
by the removing member;

25 a driving source that generates a driving power; and

a drive transfer unit including a gear that transfers the driving force from the driving source to the capturing member to rotate the capturing member, wherein

the removing unit is pivotable about an axis between a contact position in which the capturing member contacts the intermediate transfer member and a non-contact position in which the capturing member is not in contact with the intermediate transfer member, the axis being aligned with an axis of the gear.

11. The image forming device according to claim 10, wherein the capturing member is rotatable while contacting the removing member whether the capturing member is in contact with the intermediate transfer member or is separated from the intermediate transfer member.

12. The image forming device according to claim 10, further comprising:

an exposing member that exposes the image carrying member to light based on image data at an exposing position so as to form a latent image on the image carrying member;

a plurality of developing members, each corresponding to a different color and developing a latent image with a developer into a visible image on the image carrying member at a developing position downstream from the exposing position in a first direction;

a primary transfer member that transfers the visible

image to the intermediate transfer member at a primary transfer position downstream from the developing position in the first direction; and

5 a secondary transfer member that transfers the visible image from the intermediate transfer member to a recording medium at a secondary transfer position downstream from the primary transfer position in a second direction;

10 wherein the image carrying member moves in the first direction, while the intermediate transfer member moves in the second direction while in contact with the image carrying member.

13. The image forming device according to claim 10, wherein the capturing member is formed of a conducting material.

15 14. The image forming device according to claim 10, wherein the removing member has a removing roller that contacts the capturing member.

15. The image forming device according to claim 14, further comprising a blade that contacts the removing roller.

20 16. The image forming device according to claim 15, wherein the removing roller is formed of a conducting material.

17. The image forming device according to claim 10, wherein the developer is a polymerized toner.

25 18. The image forming device according to claim 10,

wherein the capturing member moves to separate from the intermediate transfer member while keeps rotating.

19. The image forming device according to claim 10, further comprising:

5 a controlling unit that controls the capturing member to rotate in a state separated from the intermediate transfer member in at least such cases as when the power is turned ON, when recovering from a sleep mode, after printing a prescribed number of sheets, and after performing an
10 initialization operation when recovering from an error.